78,577 MW of capacity addition is proposed in the 11th Five Year Plan. To augment the power supply at competitive tariffs, the Tariff Policy provides that all future requirement of power be procured competitively by distribution licensees except in cases of a one time expansion of not more than 50% of the existing project capacity or where there is a State controlled/owned company as an identified developer. Even for the Public Sector projects, tariff of all new generation and transmission projects is required to be decided on the basis of competitive bidding after a period of five years or when the Regulatory Commission is satisfied that the situation is ripe to introduce such competition.

The Central Government is also facilitating Ultra Mega Power Projects which are resulting in lower quoted tariffs. .

With a view to arresting the rising trend in the trading margin charged by the electricity traders and protecting consumer's interest, CERC in exercise of its power under the Electricity Act, 2003 has fixed the trading margin of 4 paise/Kwh which could be charged by an inter-State electricity trader. In order to bring about equity, transparency and efficiency and better optimisation of limited resources, CERC has also passed an order stipulating, *inter-alia* the guidelines for setting up of a common platform for trading/power exchange to function under the overall regulatory oversight.

(d) No, Sir.

Availability of Power in Bihar

†3454. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes of Central Government to improve the availability of power in Bihar;

(b) the names of mega power projects which have been sanctioned in Bihar by Government;

(c) the quantum of electricity likely to be generated after the setting up of these projects; and

(d) whether the expected production of power will be sufficient to meet the demand of power?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) As per the draft prepared by Working Group"on Power, 4ermal power projects totaling 5800 MW are programmed to be commissioned in Bihar during the 11th Plan, consisting of 5050 MW comitted projects and 750 MW projects with best efforts. This includes three mega power projects namely Kahalgaon-Phase-ll unit 6 & 7, Barh-I and Barh-ll to be commissioned by NTPC in the State. The details of these projects including their benefits during 11th Plan are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(d) With shares from above central sector projects to be set up in Bihar, demand for power in Bihar is not likely to be fully met. However, Eastern Region as a whole, is anticipated to be surplus and with the proposed capacity addition of 78,577 MW in the country during the 11th Plan, demand for power in the country is envisaged to be fully met and there will be free flow of power within the country. As such, Bihar may have to tie up its power needs with the surplus states/agencies to meet its demand.

Statement

Status of Thermal Power Projects in Bihar programmed for commissioning during 11th Plan (2007-12) and beyond.

SI. No.	Name of Scheme	Ultimate Caoacity (MW)	Benefit in 11th Plarf—2007-12	Brief Status
1	2	3	4	5
A.	COMMITTED PROJECTS			
	Central Sector:			
	Kahalgaon Unit 6&7 NTPC	1000	1000	Under construction
	Barh Stage-I NTPC	1980	1980	Under construction
	Barh Stage-ll NTPC	1320	1320	-Inputs/clearances are being tied-up
	Nabinagar TPS-Joint venture with Railway and NTPC	1000	750	-MOEF clearance received on 3-8-04 -Coal linkage is available -LOI is expected by 1/08 CCEA approval received on 01-02-07
	TOTAL:		5050	

1	2	3	4	5
B	PROJECTS WITH BEST EFFORTS Central Sector			
1.	Nabinagar TPS (Joint venture) with Railways and NTPC State Sector	1000	250	-Inputs/clearance are being tied-up
1.	Muzaffarpur Ext. by Vaishaii Power	500	500	-Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been signed between NTPC&BSEBon 26-12-05-PPA has also been signed on 22-08-06
	Grand Total		5800	• '

Advanced Micro Application of Laser Welding

3455. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the "Advanced Micro application of laser welding" which was discussed through presentation of national level paper on this topic by around 44 groups from different State was organized by well-known Vishveshvarya National Institute of Technology in Nagpur in January 2007;

(b) if so, whether Government would encourage research and development activities being undertaken by well-established institutes; and

(c) whether the existing technologies, system, procedure are upgraded through assimilation/adaptation such R&D?